

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, applicants have amended independent claims 2-6 and have canceled claim 1 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 2-20 remain in this application and are now pending.

Claim 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beukema et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,148) in view of Chuang (U.S. Patent No. 5,371,864). Claims 12-20 have been allowed. Claims 4 and 6-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and the objection is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number 815-885-2389.

Respectfully submitted,

February 16, 2005

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert D. Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Robert D. Anderson
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